

London Holds Scant Hope On Eve of Paris Conference

German and French Plans Leagues Apart, and No One Expects Bonar Law's to Satisfy All the Allies

Fear Paris-London Split

Britain's Attitude Directly Opposite to That of France as to Solution

By Arthur S. Draper
Special Cable to The Tribune

LONDON. When the Premiers of Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium meet at Paris on Wednesday they will have before them at least two and probably three plans for the settlement of the long standing question of German reparations.

The Cuno government, which submitted a scheme on the eve of the conference held here a fortnight back, will try its luck with another plan, but since Premier Poincare's ideas about a just settlement are poles apart from those of the Germans, it might as well remain in Berlin. However, there may be a happier fate for the plan which Bonar Law will present to the conference, but only a super-optimist would dare to predict its acceptance by all of the Allies.

Poincare himself undoubtedly will offer a plan. If the conference ends successfully the chances are that it will be through an agreement upon a compromise of the Anglo-French plans. Mussolini might be expected to submit a plan, but he was so utterly disillusioned at his first meeting with the Allied Premiers that he is debating in his own mind whether his presence is not needed more in Rome than in Paris.

Prospects Not Bright

In official circles there is a tendency to regard the prospects of a settlement as less happy than a fortnight ago. The decision of the Reparation Commission in holding Germany in default in respect to the timber deliveries of 1922 has created a bad atmosphere for holding the Paris conference.

The British are convinced that Poincare is determined to exact guarantees from the Germans and that nothing else matters much to the head of the French government. For a long time the British officials believed there was always the possibility of an Anglo-French agreement for handling Germany, but now they fear the Paris conference will be historic in that it will be marked by the breaking of relations between the two countries.

The reasons for this are perfectly simple. The Bonar Law government holds just as Lloyd George did, that there can be no real settlement of European problems if France seizes German territory and holds it as a guaranty of payment of the German debts. Not only that, but Bonar Law maintains that economic sanctions would prove just as injurious to the peace of Europe.

Consequently, the British are compelled to assume an attitude which is directly opposite to that of the French, who want to get something tangible in the quickest possible way.

Lone Hand for France

If the two governments maintain the position which I have outlined it takes no prophet to predict that France will play a lone hand in Europe for some time to come. The only country which might ally herself with France is Belgium, and there is considerable doubt whether the Theunis government will be prepared to take this profoundly important step.

Italy will stand by England in this crisis, and so will all the neutrals without a single exception. It is not because of any love for England or dislike for France, but solely because the responsible governments believe such a policy is to the best interests of their respective countries and the reorganization of Europe as a whole.

Poincare's first intention was to have a joint military occupation of the Ruhr. Then this scheme was modified to provide for the establishment of a military cordon, and now he asks simply that a customs barrier be fixed.

In British opinion one plan is as bad as the other, because each is really a political sanction, even though it is described as an economic guaranty. If Poincare remains adamant and the French proceed to press their policy British experts believe the French will discover quickly that they have thrown a boomerang.

The British are convinced that independent action on the part of the French will play havoc with the European exchanges, particularly with the mark and the franc, and that the settlement of the inter-Allied war debt will be set back for months, if not years. They believe trade will suffer a heavy blow, and if that is the case the British unemployment problem, serious as it is to-day, will become infinitely worse.

Moratorium Is a Plan

That is the black side of the picture as it seems in this country. The other is brighter, and it is one which the British hope the conference will select. The British hope that the conference will give the Cuno government and the German industrialists every incentive to balance their budget and stabilize their exchange. That plan calls for a long moratorium.

Bonar Law will suggest also the selection of an international commission to supervise and examine German finances. Such a commission would call for American representation. This commission would not harass but encourage the Germans to set their state in order, and in this way the British believe the reparations payments would increase.

What happens in Paris, however, depends upon the amount of political independence Poincare shows.

Premier Poincare



Labor Shortage in Paris; Lack Men to Fix Streets

Only 300 Unemployed, but Pawnshops Do Largest Business in History

(By The Associated Press)

PARIS. The entire Department of the Seine, of which Paris is the greatest part, boasts of only 300 unemployed.

"Green Christmas, full churchyard," says the proverb. But the mild weather saved the Paris Municipal Council considerable trouble, for had snow fallen it could not have been cleared away for lack of labor. The streets of Paris need repairing, but contractors find it impossible to obtain the workmen.

One of the largest employers of labor in France has places for 3,000 persons of various trades, but cannot get them. For seventy-nine vacancies in the Paris postoffice there were only nine applicants, and an advertisement offering ninety-five positions in state manufactories brought two replies.

In spite of the apparent prosperity and lack of unemployment the official Parisian pawnshops have never done such an enormous business since their foundation. Savings banks deposits show an increase of a little more than a half billion francs over 1921.

Frugality Marks Meals Given House of Lords

Boiled Beef, Cold Ham, Apple Tart and Grilled Chops Most Popular

LONDON.

Luncheons and dinners at the House of Lords are surprisingly frugal. The setting where the legislative nobility of England congregates and the ceremony attending so many of their functions stimulate the imagination of visitors, who expect to find the members of the House of Lords lunching lavishly at midday and sitting down to elaborate and formal dinners at night. The Lord Chancellor recently gave a political dinner, a cheap affair, for when the total of the check was divided by the number of guests it worked out at the rate of six shillings each.

Boiled beef, cold ham, apple tart and grilled chops are most frequently the orders from the peers' dining room to the kitchen. An order often sent down the lift calls for a "Lord Finlay with cream," denoting that the diner would like a portion of apple tart, a favorite dish with Lord Finlay. Many other peers have their special likes. Lord Haldane, for instance, takes little but soda water; Lord Onslow, cake, bread and butter for tea, at one shilling a time, while Lord Buckmaster always has an order in hand for a Sultana roll.

Icy North Pole Starts On a Trip Southward

Greenland Moving Westward at Rate of 20 Yards a Year, Says Scientist

LONDON.

The earth is wobbling on its axis, according to Colonel P. Jensen, the Danish scientist, who returned recently from a degree-measuring expedition into Greenland. He reports that Greenland is moving westward at the rate of twenty yards a year. This seems to confirm the recent reports of surprising climatic changes at the North Pole.

It is now established that there is a periodic shifting of the latitude of the North Pole. The movement is difficult to detect because of the small area of the pole—about the size of a tennis court. Some authorities say that the poles are gradually changing their positions and that this alteration to the world's axis will, in time mean that regions which are at present icebound will become warm and habitable countries.

British Troops on Rhine Cost About \$270,000,000

LONDON.

The strength of the British army of occupation in Germany on November 1 was 552 officers and 8,128 men of other rank, according to Walter Guinness, Under Secretary to the War Department.

The total cost of maintenance, exclusive of accommodation and miscellaneous services, from the armistice to July 31, 1922, amounted to £24,658,000.

Book Gives Haig Undue Glory, Is French Belief

Critics Assail Work Which Attributes the Success of Offensive in 1918 to the British Field Marshal

Foch Is Still Unruffled

General Expected to Drive New Volume on View With Amused Tolerance

PARIS.

The book which Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Morston, a member of Field Marshal Haig's staff, and G. H. B. Dewar, editor of "The Nineteenth Century and After," have published, dealing with Haig's role in the great war, has made a stir in Paris. It suggests in many ways that Haig was the real architect of victory in the Allied offensive of 1918.

It says that the attack of August 8 before Amiens was an exclusively British conception. It also says that the Battle of Bapaume, of August 21, was planned entirely by the British staff, and was undertaken in spite of the fact that Foch wanted to continue the fighting further south, on the Chaulnes front. Finally it declares that Haig inspired the directions for the concentric attacks of September, contained in Foch's orders of September 3, thus giving the Allied offensive "a scientific form."

French critics think that Haig's eulogists go much too far in claiming for him laurels which have been heretofore awarded to Foch. The French point of view is tactfully set forth by Philippe Millet, the well-known journalist and editor of "L'Europe Nouvelle," in an article in "Le Petit Parisien." M. Millet says:

What Would Foch Say?

"What would Marshal Foch answer if he were in the habit of mixing into such discussions? One can imagine him sitting in his office in the Boulevard des Invalides glancing through those two volumes, his pipe in his hand, his body thrown back, as if to reach a detached conclusion.

"Upon my word, there is some truth in all this! he would say good naturedly.

"The excellent personal relations existing between Field Marshal Haig and Marshal Foch—attested by very recent letters—make impossible any petty rivalry between these two soldiers. Just as Haig paid public tribute to the time of the armistice to the man who had directed the Allied armies, so Foch has always been the first to emphasize the greatness of the task accomplished by the English army and its chief.

"But there is another reason which would keep Marshal Foch from showing any astonishment. He is still master of the method which he employed during the war to maintain a good understanding among the Allies.

"That was not an easy task, nor an unimportant one. A great soldier is not necessarily experienced in the art of getting along with foreign generals. Marshal Joffre sometimes lost his temper. After an interview on July 3, 1916, in which he had vainly tried to break down Sir Douglas Haig's resistance, he said to General Foch, in his usual blunt manner:

"I don't want to see him again. Try to straighten things out with him."

Marshal's Secret of Success

"General Foch was more fortunate that day than General Joffre, for he secured a resumption of the English offensive on the Somme. The principal secret of his success is found, perhaps, in the fact that he always managed to put his genius at the service of others.

"He never had any serious difficulty collaborating with Field Marshal Haig. The latter, nevertheless, was a tenacious and slow-moving Scot, master of his profession as an English officer, energetic in execution, but with less imagination than Field Marshal Wilson and with a rather intractable disposition.

"When, following the offensive of July 18, he wished to launch a powerful attack in the region of Amiens, he had recourse to a double stratagem—and a perfectly innocent one. He offered to put under Haig's orders for this attack one of the French armies, which would oblige the latter to take charge of the operation himself and to use his best troops in it. He charged Haig at the same time to make the tactical plans for the offensive, and, in fact, approved the plans drawn up by the English staff.

"In this way," he said later, with a faint smile, "I made sure that Haig would do his utmost." What happened in the case of the attack of August 8 happened in the case of all the succeeding operations. Not only did Foch, after serious discussion, allow the English the benefit of their own ideas, but he encouraged Haig to believe in himself. It was only through this impulse that Haig decided to launch, on August 21, the Bapaume attack, with effectives which the prudent Scot thought hardly sufficient.

"Go ahead," Foch said to him. "You say that you have nothing on that front. It is enough."

"In this connection it would be interesting to see published the old note book, with its worn elastic band, in which Marshal Foch wrote down in shorthand all the events of the war. We should find related there the visits which he made every week, toward the end of the campaign of 1918, to the Château de Mouchy, near Beauvais, to meet Haig. There were hours when, in the full tide of operations, the English Marshal confessed that he could not see very well where he was going and when he conformed to Foch's advice only as a matter of simple faith.

"Foch always knew how to remove Haig's doubts and to help him to show himself a great soldier. After having assisted Haig to discover himself he could not be offended."

Sarah Bernhardt



This photograph of the actress was taken recently in her dressing room in her own theater.

Friends Will Be Death of Her, Say Mme. Bernhardt's Doctors

Indomitable Will of Famous Actress Seeks to Conquer Illness, but It Is Said She Never Will Return to Stage

By Wilbur Forrest
Special Cable to The Tribune

PARIS.

There is a feeling in Paris that Sarah Bernhardt will never be seen on the stage again. Exactly from where this premonition springs is difficult to determine, but it is general.

The explanation possibly is simply this: That the famous tragedienne, known for three-quarters of a century to the French and foreign stage, is to-day very ill, lying in her Paris home, but retaining her mind and will, to which her aged body is slow to respond.

Since the evening a few days ago when she collapsed in the theater from nervous exhaustion her physicians have prescribed complete sickroom isolation and absolute quiet. Daily Mme. Bernhardt has disregarded their orders, summoning friends to her bedside and insisting to them that her indisposition is only temporary and that soon she will return to her beloved work.

Leaving the Boulevard Pereire residence these friends are beginning to shake their heads in wonder as to whether the illustrious artist, will ever emerge again from her present state into even indifferent health, as she has suffered for years. Because they see in Bernhardt's sickroom the same indefatigable brain and stern will fighting to conquer a body which is extremely worn and weak, and so instead of the complete repose which should give her strength there is doubtless daily exhaustion.

Demands Made on Friends

Always surrounded by friends, Bernhardt demands them now, and according to those in attendance, they may be her death, or at least the cause of her death, or at least the cause of her death, or at least the cause of her death.

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Paris friends, however, that the physicians are trying to ward off, for they come personally, the physicians warning that they will cause her death. But friends are never considerate and Bernhardt's doctors are in a state of despair.

It has developed with the present illness that the famous actress has been hiding her poor state of health from the public for years. Her dynamic will, coupled with her need of the resources called for by her many responsibilities, has driven her full steam ahead over a decade longer, until it would have been normal to retire. Her several farewell tours in the United States have been sincere farewells, but every country in the world, especially America, has been more lucrative touring grounds for the diva Sarah than her own France.

Many years before 1915 she walked with the greatest difficulty, due to an affliction of the leg which later had to be amputated. As early as 1912 her admirers noticed that she had ceased to move around the stage, appearing in such pieces in which she could remain fairly stationary.

Type of Plays Used

For example, the first play of this type was "Jeanne d'Arc." Bernhardt does not have to appear in the first act, in the second act she stands quietly in the dock, she does not have to move much in the small prison cell which is the set for the third act, and is again in one place for the execution in the fourth act.

In "La Gloire," her latest success, she has appeared in a great picture frame, not moving from this position. It was such a play that Sacha Guitry arranged for her—"a subject of romance," the preparation of which caused the famous tragedienne to fall from nervous exhaustion. She had spent four consecutive nights without sleep preparing her role for the first performance of this play.

It has been this driving power, the result partially of her love of the stage, and more materially her need of money, which has brought Bernhardt to her present condition, close friends frankly admit. Her family of three generations, which she insists upon having near her, has been a steady financial drain.

In addition her generosity to a fault in her charities, aiding struggling young theater-folk and mothering flatter families in Belle Isle off the Brittany coast, where she has her summer residence, and multiple other monetary considerations have driven Bernhardt time and time again to reap the harvest her name inspires everywhere. Perhaps this explains her desire to recover quickly so that she can return to the stage and tour America once again.

London to Bathe Little 1923 In an Ocean of Champagne

(By The Associated Press)

LONDON.

The New Year will be ushered in by jazz-loving merry-makers at the fashionable hotels, restaurants and clubs with an elaborateness worthy of Broadway at its best.

The manager of the Savoy Hotel, which furnishes shelter for perhaps more Americans than any other European hotel, has announced that 2,500 guests will find New Year's entertainment of a notably lavish sort within its walls. Many hundred bottles of champagne will be ready for toasting the

Explorer Uses Automobile as Ship of Desert

Daring Frenchmen, in Cars Will Try to Cross Lonely Sahara, Where Breakdowns May Mean Death

Sand Peril Is Overcome

Rubber Bands Replace Hind Wheels and Party Begins Journey in High Spirits

By Stephane Lauzanne
Editor in Chief of "Le Matin"

PARIS.

When these lines reach New York a dozen Frenchmen will be engaged in one of the most daring and sensational enterprises of modern times: they will try, with six motor cars, to cross the immense ocean of sand known on the maps as the Sahara.

The Tribune has already spoken of this extraordinary attempt to its readers, but I should like to present to them him who is the soul of it: Andre Citroen—the French "Ford." And I shall let him speak for himself:

"I have already wondered," said Mr. Citroen to me, "why motor cars would not be used as explorers. In fact, they are the best explorers one can dream of in the world. . . . Look at the map of North Africa. Between our northern possessions, that is to say Algeria, and our central possessions, namely the Sudan, there is an immense vacancy, five or six times greater than the Mediterranean—it is the desert of the Sahara. The rail alone will be able to conquer this ocean of sand. But the rail requires an exploring and liaison agent—the auto-car. Which auto-car? The ordinary automobile with its four wheels? No. It is beaten beforehand in its struggle against the moving sand and the rocky massive. A special auto-car is required. We believe we have found it!"

Description of Automobile And Andre Citroen gives me a minute description of the auto-car with which he intends crossing the desert. It is an automobile whose back wheels are replaced by two rubber bands. Thanks to these bands, which are extremely pliable, and thanks also to an appropriate mechanism which follows all the movements of the rubber band, the motor car does not sink into the sand, but follows all the sinuosities of the ground without any difficulty. It can cross any kind of sandy height, ditch or rocky mountain.

Six of these motor cars, each one manned by two men, are at this present moment attempting what no human locomotion has ever yet attempted. Several days ago they left Tuggurt, the extreme point where the Algerian Railroad stops, and they are going to try to reach Timbuktu, near the River Niger, where civilized life begins again. This is a distance of about 2,200 miles and there are no Standard Oil garages on the road! And the supply cars, although each one is provided with enormous barrels of oil, cannot carry more than 1,600 pints each!

"It was a difficult problem," said Mr. Citroen to me, "and that is why it is an interesting one. Difficult problems alone are interesting. I have decided to organize a regular expedition. The road has, so to say, been divided into three sections of about 700 miles each. The first section will run from Tuggurt to In-Salah.

"Since a year this section has been explored by two French officers, Lieutenant Audouin-Dubreuil and Lieutenant Etienne, the son of General Etienne, to whom the French army owes its tanks. Oil and supply deposits have been placed all along the road. The second section runs from In-Salah to Kidal. This will be the most difficult one. Very few Europeans have crossed this region, which is the hottest and the most deserted of the globe. There the travelers are left to themselves and to God.

"Third section, Kidal-Timbuktu. This section has been explored and marked out with oil deposits. It will be the easiest one. The cars will be lighter, and the explorers will reach the end of their wonderful adventure. Nevertheless, if heaven permits, they will come back by the same road.

"It is estimated that from Tuggurt to Timbuktu the motor cars will need from eighteen to twenty days' journey. The two or three caravans which up to the present time have accomplished this raid, on camels, have taken from three to four months."

It is scarcely necessary to show the invaluable results which the success of the journey offers—military, commercial, industrial and scientific results. But there is one result which Mr. Citroen thinks of especially and which cannot fail to interest the United States in particular:

"If," said he, "the experiment be successful in Africa there is no reason why a similar trial should not be successful in Asia. If we cross the desert of the Sahara without difficulty there is no reason why motor cars of the same type should not cross the vast plains of Mongolia and the solitudes of Tibet. If we open up the road across Africa, then it will thousands of roads which will be opened up across the whole extent of China; it will be civilization penetrating not only into the desert where no human being will ever live, but penetrating into the immense Chinese empire, where millions and millions of human beings, whom we do not know and who do not know us, are living."

And thus it is why the experience attempted at this moment, by six small motor cars is deeply interesting. After all, it interests the whole human race!

The French "Ford"



Andre Citroen

Party Defied By Mussolini To Aid Allies

"No War Against France; We Won't March With Austria and Germany," Warning Given Socialists

Founded a New Future

King Who Visited Wounded Little Thought Humble Soldier Would Be Premier

ROME.

The story of the part played by Benito Mussolini, the Italian Premier, in the World War is told in "La Renaissance."

Immediately upon the beginning of the war, before Italy entered it, and while—because of her membership in the Triple Alliance and her occasional friction with France—her course was still a matter of doubt, Mussolini spoke out plainly: "No war against France; for then you would have barricades in Italy. We won't march with Austria and Germany." Then little by little rumors began to circulate about a change that was operating in his mind. Mussolini passed from neutrality to interventionism.

An open letter by Lombardo-Radice compelled him to declare himself. Yes, he was on the other side, a great scandal among his comrades. Behind the neutrality of some of them was hidden a sympathy for Germany; in others it masked the personal desire to remain tranquil. With his habitual prompt decisions Mussolini took the great step. He left the Socialist party. He gave up his place as publisher and editor in chief. He left behind him a past for the realization of which he had worked and suffered. He wanted to build for himself another house, another future. This was his second emigration, a spiritual, a graver and a profounder emigration.

In a fortnight he founded the "Popolo d'Italia," followed by a few rare comrades. He also founded the "Fasci per l'Intervento," which in general grouped the men of the Left—Socialists, Syndicalists—above all, even Anarchists. They continued calling themselves Socialists, but asked intervention in favor of the Entente.

Mussolini fought in the war as a corporal of the Bersaglieri. He was treated "very democratically" as he wrote to a friend—and with some antagonism by the high powers. Because of his former ideas he was not permitted to study as a student officer. An engine exploded near him during his drills; he was gravely wounded and had to stay in the hospital several months. The King came to see him in the tent, and he would have smiled had they then predicted that the little corporal lying in a field bed would, six years later, be Premier.

Returned to Milan, Mussolini took up again the editorship of the "Popolo d'Italia," where he upheld the war to the end and the accord with the Allies. He was against the Socialists, the defeatists, the doubters. He became more and more nationalistic.

When peace was declared he continued in the same direction. He was the center of the anti-Bolshevik resistance. His paper was the organ of the combatants, of the Arditi. He meant to prevent at any cost the rule of Italy, upset as she was by the strikes, the agitations of the peasants, the seizure of the factories. He defended Italy against the proposal to abandon the Allies, against the Socialists and the Communists who declared the bourgeoisie at an end; and so he finally created the Fascist movement.

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Charge British Labor Is Ruled By Communists

London 'Morning Post' Starts Series of Articles to Show Revolutionists Control Workers' Party Machine

Accused Leaders Laugh

Make Counter Plea That Conservatives Have Secret Order Like America's Klan

By Warre B. Wells

Special Cable to The Tribune

LONDON. Is the British Labor party going Communist? "The Morning Post," the most conservative of the London newspapers, claims that it is and is taking up a drive to prove it. The basis of the charge, which is being developed in a series of articles, is the discovery of an alleged scheme for reorganization which the Communist party in this country recently adopted and which is now being put into operation.

The disclosure of this scheme, the authenticity of which there is no reason to doubt, is most interesting, but whether the official Labor party is implicated in the revolutionary aims of the Communists is an entirely different question.

Say Communists Dominate

"The Morning Post" claims that the Communists are now the dominating force in the Labor party, and that they are working with the help of, at least, the connivance, of official laborites, and that those members of the official party who are neither overtly nor secretly Communist are unable to exercise any restraining influence.

That the British Communist party itself is revolutionary is not open to question. It is recognized by Moscow and is a member of the Communist International. The scheme of the reorganization of the party is likewise avowedly revolutionary in intent. According to "The Morning Post," this scheme is due to Karl Radek's censure of the British Communists on account of their failure to derive revolutionary results from the strike of last year.

The Communists are now planning to form themselves into a society with a secret nucleus behind the open groups, with centers in every town and district and agents in every social class. They aim to penetrate with revolutionary purpose every political, industrial and social organization in the country. Their main purpose, in "The Morning Post's" words, is to "insure the incessant activity of every branch of the revolution, from teaching children to preparation of an armed insurrection."

All this may seem to open up a most